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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

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NFAC No. 2501-78
19 June 1978

National Intelligence Officers

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MEMORANDUM FOR: The Director of Central Intelligence
FROM : [REDACTED] M
Assistant to the National Intelligence Officer
for Political Economy
SUBJECT : Your Note of 30 May 1978 (attached) on my Proposal
for Improving Document Security

1. I was not planning to come back at you on this issue because I found your conclusion compelling; namely, that the root cause of the problems we have been having is lack of self discipline. But something you said at the meeting with the White House fellows started me to thinking again.

2. You said that we did have a problem (by no means an exclusive one) with people who tended to become less and less sensitive about classified information, with the result that the line between what journalists are told and what they should be told tends to blur. Then classified information ends up on page 1. The nub of the problem here (as it is in taking papers home) is also self-discipline about security.

3. But what does the Agency do to promote and reinforce this sense of discipline? In my 3 years at CIA I have had a number of "security education briefings"; just this past week I had my fourth. While these briefings were well done, held my attention, and emphasized the nature of the opposition's threat to us, they were not at all focussed on the issue of discipline in the handling of highly classified papers and sensitivity in discussing classified information. In fact, you are the only official with whom I have talked who has mentioned this particular aspect of security at all. When I entered a production office in 1975, I had to learn proper handling procedures on my own, and only this week did I learn that most NIOs and office directors had no information on the correct procedures for taking classified papers to an inter-agency meeting downtown.

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4. This leads me to ask if we ought to see what the Office of Security could do to design a special "consciousness-raising" program for analysts and NIO-types for whom sensitivity in handling classified information is every bit as important as being alert to the threat from KGB.

5. My hat is off to the DDA for their very thorough and professional review of the practicalities of my coloured paper proposal. I was impressed by the time they put into evaluating my suggestion.

21 JUN 1978

I'm still with you,



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